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Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-273001 / US4846

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Sendova. In response, the claims are amended in order to better emphasize their patentable distinctions. The present claims define aspects of an illumination apparatus as used in a liquid crystal display device. The pending claims include 1-32 with claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 21, 23, and 29 being independent. Independent claims 1 and 6 are supported by FIG. 8; claim 12 is supported by FIG. 10; and claims, 17, 21, 23, and 29 are supported by FIG. 1.

As amended, it is respectfully suggested that the rejections do not meet the Patent Office's burden of providing a *prima facie* showing of unpatentability.

The rejection alleges that Sendova teaches a point light source, and refers to element 21 as being that point light source. However, it is respectfully suggested that reference 21 is not a point light source, but is rather a linear light source as shown more clearly in Sendova's FIGs. 8 and 9. Column 1, lines 42-44 of Sendova and column 6, lines 49-50 show that the number of light sources simulates the infinite light source of a linear light source such as a cold cathode fluorescent lamp. Therefore, it is respectfully suggested that Sendova does not

Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-273001 / US4846

teach a point light source, but rather teaches an infinite linear light source. In fact, Sendova expressly teaches away from the use of a point light source.

Therefore, it is respectfully suggested that these claims should be allowable.

Claims 17, 21, 23, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Maegawa. This contention is again respectfully traversed. Claim 21 recites that the first light guiding plate has a larger refractive index than the second light guiding plate. It is respectfully suggested that the rejection does not address this specific claimed feature. Claim 29 also recites this feature. The rejection contends on page 7 that Maegawa discloses this feature. However, this is respectfully traversed and the assignee's review of Maegawa does not find this feature. It is respectfully suggested that Maegawa does not show the first light guiding plate with a larger refractive index than the second light guiding plate, and that if the Patent Office believes this is true, then it is respectfully suggested that they expressly point out how this is shown.

Claims 17 and 23 have been amended to recite that the second light guiding plate is separate from the first light guiding plate as shown by reference numerals 403 and 406 in

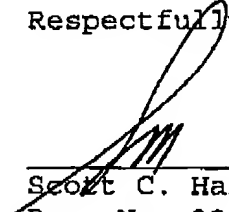
Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-273001 / US4846

FIG. 1. The rejection contends that Maegawa teaches a first light guiding plate 4 and a second light guiding plate 2a. However, it appears that Maegawa teaches only one light guiding plate shown by reference numeral 1. Since Maegawa does not teach two light guiding plates, it certainly cannot show that the first and second light guiding plates are separated as claimed.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12/16/02

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Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-273001 / US4846

VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the Claims:

Claims 1, 12, 17, 23, 28 and 32 have been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) An illumination apparatus comprising:

[a point light source;]

a light guiding plate having a first side surface and a second side surface; [and]

a point light source adjacent to an intersection of said first side surface and said second side surface; and

a reflecting member for reflecting a light of said point light source,

wherein said light reflected by said reflecting member is incident on at least [two side surfaces] said first side surface and said second side surface of said light guiding plate.

12. (Amended) An illumination apparatus comprising:

a light guiding plate having a first side surface, a second side surface, and a third side surface, wherein said first side surface is not perpendicular to said second side surface and said third side surface; and

a point light source adjacent to said first side surface,

wherein a light emitted from said point light source is incident on [a] said first side surface of said light guiding

Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-273001 / US4846

plate and exits through an upper surface or a lower surface of said light guiding plate.

17. (Amended) An illumination apparatus comprising:

a first light guiding plate having a first side surface and a second side surface perpendicular to said first side surface;

a second light guiding plate having a first side surface, an upper surface, and a lower surface, said upper surface and said lower surface being perpendicular to said first surface, wherein said second light guiding plate is separate from said first light guiding plate; and

a point light source,

wherein a light emitted from said point light source is incident on a first side surface of said first light guiding plate and exit through a second side surface of said first light guiding plate, and

wherein said light exiting through said second side surface of said first light guiding plate is incident on said first side surface of said second light guiding plate, and exit through said upper surface or said lower surface of said second light guiding plate.

23. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device comprising:

Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-273001 / US4846

a liquid crystal panel comprising a first substrate, a second substrate, and a liquid crystal interposed therebetween; and

a illumination apparatus adjacent to said liquid crystal panel for illuminating an image display plane of said liquid crystal panel, said illumination apparatus comprising:

a first light guiding plate having a first side surface and a second side surface perpendicular to said first side surface;

a second light guiding plate having a first side surface, an upper surface, and a lower surface, said upper surface and said lower surface being perpendicular to said first surface, wherein said second light guiding plate is separate from said first light guiding plate; and

a point light source,

wherein a light emitted from said point light source is incident on a first surface of said first light guiding plate and exit through a second side surface of said first light guiding plate, and

wherein said light exiting through said second side surface of said first light guiding plate is incident on said first side surface of said second light guiding plate, and exit through said upper surface or said lower surface of said second light guiding plate.

Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-273001 / US4846

28. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 23, wherein said liquid crystal display device is incorporated in at least one selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a digital camera, a mobile telephone, a video camera, a mobile computer, a head mount display, a television, an electronic book, a player which use a recording medium, and a car navigation system.

32. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device according to claim 29, wherein said liquid crystal display device is incorporated in at least one selected from the group consisting of a personal computer, a digital camera, a mobile telephone, a video camera, a mobile computer, a head mount display, a television, an electronic book, a player which use a recording medium, and a car navigation system.

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